

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 297

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tommy Lynch on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Lynch is one such estimable person, who served with distinction for forty-five years with the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation and recently took a much-deserved retirement in March 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lynch had been an employee of Metro Parks since 1971, and he served the organization in various capacities. For the first nine years of his tenure, he was recreation leader in one of the community centers; then, in 1980, he was named superintendent of Revenue Producing Facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Tommy Lynch served as assistant director of Parks/Revenue Producing Facilities, and from 1995 until 1998, he assumed the duties of both assistant director of Finance and Administration and Revenue Producing Facilities; and

WHEREAS, after serving as interim director for two years, Mr. Lynch was named director of the department in 2010; and

WHEREAS, when Tommy Lynch took the helm, Metro Parks had been experiencing budgetary conflicts with the mayor's office; Mr. Lynch is credited with helping stabilize operations financially while also overseeing various major projects, including the construction of Cumberland Park on the east bank of the Cumberland River and a new riverfront park on the west bank that includes Ascend Amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with Metro Parks, Mr. Lynch oversaw the acquisition of over 3,000 acres of the system's total 15,873 acres through the Open Space Plan, preserving

and protecting areas adjacent to the Cumberland River, as well as the Harpeth River, Mill Creek, Whites Creek, and Richland Creek; and

WHEREAS, he also served as the direct supervisor of eight assistant directors who themselves oversaw approximately 600 employees, 185 parks, seven regional centers, nineteen neighborhood centers, four nature centers, ten aquatic features, seven dog parks, seven public golf courses, over 200 miles of trails and greenways, over thirty-five historic sites and structures, the Centennial Sportsplex, the Parthenon, and parks police force; and

WHEREAS, under Tommy Lynch's leadership, Metro Parks developed a countywide Parks and Greenways Master Plan; he also played a major role in the development of the Nashville Parks Foundation, which supports Metro Parks and its partners to enhance public parks, promote sustainable growth of the park system, and expand recreational opportunities throughout Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, prior to his departure, Mr. Lynch helped create a ten-year master plan through a process called Plan to Play; this plan will serve as a road map for Metro Parks for the next decade or longer, thus ensuring that Mr. Lynch's successor inherits a department that is stable and ready to move forward; and

WHEREAS, often duly honored for his hard work and commitment, Tommy Lynch was named the recipient of the 2016 Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Fellow Award, the highest honor the association can bestow, highlighting the outstanding contributions of his nearly half-century career with Metro Parks; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Lynch exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Lynch demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Tommy Lynch our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.